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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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FMB Adds 24-Total 2,072

In its December meeting the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed 24 career missionaries and employed a couple for a three-year term as missionary associates, bringing its overseas mission staff to 2,072.

(The figure includes 103 persons employed for short-term service, such as a group of young missionary journeymen, missionary associates, and six nurses who have gone out to serve in mission hospitals for short terms.)

Dr. Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Board, said the new missionaries bring to 220 the number secured this year. This is the largest number appointed and employed in one year in the 120-year history of the Board.

Dr. Cauthen's report reviewed other accomplishments of 1965. "The launching of the Missionary Journeyman Program (for single college graduates under 27) has been one of the memorable developments of the year," he said. Crusades of evangelism have been held in several countries, notably in Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico, Ecuador, Spain, Nigeria, British Guiana, France, and Brazil.

"The nationwide effort in Brazil, which began at the end of January with 150,000

people gathered for a religious service in the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, was especially outstanding," Dr. Cauthen said. "More than 82,000 decisions for Christ have been registered in local churches, and the revival services continue. The formal end of this campaign will come in another mass rally in Sao Paulo in January, 1966."

"Special evangelistic efforts in 1966 are planned for Ghana, Trinidad, Mexico, Chile, British Guiana, Peru, the Bahamas, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Poland, and Japan. Plans are nearing completion

for an Asia-wide Sunday School Crusade for 1968. This should be one of the most remarkable steps in church development ever undertaken in the world.

"The burgeoning population increase throughout the world has placed upon us fresh demand for stepping up the impact of every ministry we undertake to project. A missionary consultation held last summer in Miami Beach, Fla., gave impetus to the study of the world's spiritual needs and ways in which Southern Baptists can make greater impact upon those

needs." Dr. Cauthen said the year has brought many evidences of greater involvement on the part of Southern Baptist churches and individuals in the worldwide missionary undertaking. But the major significance, he said, has been the demonstration and witness of dedication and stability by the missionaries across the world, especially in disturbed areas such as the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Rhodesia.

(Continued on page 3)

COURT REFUSES APPEAL—

School Prayers Rejected

WASHINGTON (BP) — The United States Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal in a case that would require public schools to make provision for religious exercises in the daily school program.

The case had been appealed to the Supreme Court by 15 parents of 21 children ranging from 5 to 11 years of age. The children attend Public School 184 at Whitestone, N. Y. in grades ranging from

kindergarten to the sixth.

Religious exercises in the school had been stopped as a result of the Regents Prayer case in 1962 which prohibited official prayers in schools. Since then, the courts also ruled out required Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

The United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, had ordered the school to restore the practice of reciting prayers in classrooms. Later the United States Court of Appeals reversed the decision and sustained the school decision.

The U. S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from this latter decision.

Although this does not mean that the Supreme Court agrees with the arguments and reasoning of the lower court, it does mean that this action may be interpreted to mean the continued prohibition of religious exercises on public school property during school hours.

In his decision against the recital of prayers in the public schools, Judge Henry J. Friendly said that the constitutional guarantees for free speech and the free exercise of religion do not compel a state "to permit persons to engage in public prayer in state owned facilities whenever and whenever they desire."

He further said: "Determination of what is to go on in public schools is primarily for the school authorities. Against the desire of these parents that their children be given an opportunity to acknowledge their dependence and love to Al-

might God through a prayer each day in their respective classrooms," the authorities were entitled to weigh the likely desire of other parents not to have their children present at such prayers, either because the prayers were too religious or not religious enough;

"And the wisdom of having public educational institutions stick to education and keep out of religion, with all the bickering that intrusion of the latter is likely to produce. The authorities acted well within their powers in concluding that plaintiffs must content themselves with having their children say these prayers before nine or after three."

(Continued on Page 2)

Suit Challenges Evolution Law In Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (RNS) — A Central High School biology teacher, with the backing of the Arkansas Education Association, has filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of the 39-year-old Arkansas law forbidding the teaching of evolution in public schools.

Mrs. Susan Epperson contends the law violates her freedom to speak, as guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U. S. Constitution and in article 11, section 6 of the Arkansas constitution which states: "The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of men; and all persons may freely write and publish their sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right."

The state's law was adopted in 1928 in the aftermath of the famous Scopes "monkey trial" in Tennessee which pitted William Jennings Bryan against Clarence Darrow, defense counsel for a young teacher who had discussed evolution before his class. The Arkansas statute has come under attack recently from the Arkansas Education Association and others.

When the Arkansas Education Association called for repeal of the restriction on teaching Darwinian theory earlier this year, the Greater

(Continued on page 2)

Education Seminars Set For 24 States

NASHVILLE (BP) — Plans have been mapped here for 24 seminars throughout the nation in January to deal with crises being faced by Baptist schools.

The seminars are being held as part of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) a two-year investigation being conducted on the higher education programs of Southern Baptists.

Plans for the seminars were outlined here by chairmen responsible for conducting the meetings in 16 states. Three seminars each will

be in Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina; two in Georgia; and one each in Alabama, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Arizona, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, California, Louisiana, and Virginia.

The Mississippi seminar will be at the Baptist Building in Jackson, on Monday, January 10. Owen Cooper of Yazoo City will serve as chairman of the meeting.

Twenty laymen, ministers, and women will be invited to

(Continued on page 2)

Christmas — 1965

AN EDITORIAL

It is such a simple story.

An obscure village is a far away land, a peasant mother and a new-born babe, a frantic husband finding only a stable as a resting place for his tired wife, shepherds in the fields hearing angelic hosts, and wise men, bearing gifts, following a special star.

Put it all together and it makes the most wondrous story ever told.

It has been read in hundreds of millions of family circles through almost 20 centuries.

It has been preached in millions of pulpits.

It has been printed on innumerable pages.

It has been sung by myriads of choirs.

It has been sounded around the world by radio and television.

No story the world ever has heard is more widely known or more deeply loved.

And now, the season for its retelling

has come once again.

Yet, one cannot but ask, what meaning can such a story have for the space age, an hour when scientists are breaking through all barriers of knowledge and probing the deepest mysteries?

Why should the world be concerned with such a tale, when its astronauts have just returned from fantastic achievements in space, and already the equipment is being readied for reaching the moon in this decade?

What meaning can the story have to modern sophisticated men, with his materialistic philosophies, and his computer answers?

Why should men turn aside to ponder a cradle, when the world is on fire with tragic conflict?

Why should the race stop its mad rush of complex living, and even in the midst of what will be, for many, a paganistic observance of the season, to listen to a simple story of long ago?

(Continued on page 2)

STATE STAND 'CUTS' OUACHITA GIFTS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (RNS) — Private benefactors of Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia are withdrawing their support because the Arkansas Baptist Convention demonstrated a marked reluctance to accept federal aid for its institutions.

Two weeks after the convention the university was told it would not receive \$1.2 million it expected from donors who reportedly opposed the stand on federal aid.

The estimate, reportedly conservative, was made by Dr. Ralph A. Phelps, president of Ouachita University.

Several persons, he said, have changed their wills to exclude OBU, including one case that could have meant \$250,000 to the school.

In another instance, said Dr. Phelps, a \$900,000 foundation grant that had just been arranged was withdrawn because officials of the foundation thought the convention's stand was "foolish."

This unexpected development further clouds the already complicated issue of how Baptist churches in the state intend to finance their institutions — an issue that arose when Dr. Phelps and others became concerned about inadequate future support for the university.

"The situation was bad enough before people started changing their wills and foundations started telling us they think we're stupid," Dr. Phelps said.

The state convention evaded the question of federal aid, but took some related actions. It voted to establish a committee to study the status and needs of Baptist institutions in Arkansas and adopted a resolution urging its 1,168 affiliated

Top Giving Churches Listed

By the Baptist Press

Fifteen churches in the Southern Baptist Convention received more than half-a-million dollars each in total contributions from their members last year.

Nine of those churches also reported church property valued at more than \$3 million.

A list of churches in the denomination which reported more than \$500,000 in total receipts, and a similar list of churches with property value over \$3 million were compiled by the research and statistics department of the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville.

First Baptist Church of Dallas, the largest church in the convention with 13,291 members, topped both lists.

Total contributions to the Dallas church last year were reported at \$1,588,099, and the church's property including three city blocks in downtown Dallas was valued at \$7 million.

First Baptist in Dallas also gave more to missions last year than any other church in the convention, with \$470,560 reported.

Of the 15 churches giving more than \$500,000 during the

year, seven were in Texas, two in Georgia and Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Seven churches in Texas reported property value over \$5 million.

(Continued on page 3)

The
Members
And Employees
Of The Mississippi
Baptist Convention Board
Extend To All Of Our Readers
Our Very Best Wishes For A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And

A

Happy New Year

On The Keeping Of Christmas

By Heary Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have

done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not

what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the

weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it

in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

The Baptist Record

Largest Circulation of Any Newspaper
Of Any Kind In Mississippi
JOE T. ODLE, Editor

Christmas, 1965

(Continued from page 1)

There Is A Reason

The world must stop and listen because there is so much more to this story, than the mere historical facts.

The centuries-old setting is the scene of the beginning of the greatest event of history.

It is the record of the eternal God reaching down to reveal Himself to man.

It is the story of the Son of God leaving his throne in glory to walk among men.

It is the report of the virgin birth of God's only begotten son, wrought by divine action.

It is the fulfillment of prophecy, with events foreseen by holy men of ages past, coming to pass in one glorious hour.

It is the focal point of divine revelation, pointing to one unforgettable moment.

It is the light of eternal glory, suddenly blazing forth in the world's darkness.

It is heaven reaching down to provide celestial blessing for mankind.

It is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords of the eternities, marching into world history.

No Wonder

It is no wonder that angelic hosts shouted the good news and sang for joy.

It is no wonder that shepherds listened in awe, and then hastened to see the amazing scene about which they had been told.

It is no wonder that wise men traveled afar to bring unto the new-born king their richest gifts.

It is no wonder that God set a special star in the heavens to guide seeking men to the place where he lay.

It is no wonder that world history was changed by that moment, and that multiplied millions turn their thoughts back to the scene each Christmastide.

Christmas, 1965

The world needs just such a message in this hour. Men still struggle to find life's meaning, and still search for solution to life's problems.

All the genius of modern research has not met mankind's greatest needs.

All of the computers and scientific instruments have not made a new man to walk on the earth.

There is no peace, and no hope that man can bring peace to a strife torn world.

Sin is everywhere, and Satan's forces seem to be in full control in so many areas and in so many hearts.

The world has so little concern for spiritual things, and moves more and more to a materialistic concept of life.

Even the Christmas season has become so cluttered

with earthly things, that most forget its real purpose and meaning.

Christmas Still Needed

Yes, the world needs to turn back to Bethlehem in this year 1965.

Christmas has the only answer for man's deepest, greatest problems.

Men desperately need to know the God who came down to earth to walk among men, and provide redemption for men, on that first Christmas day.

Mankind has no hope, other than that hope born on that day so long ago.

The world does need the Christmas message.

Let us once more read it, and rejoice in it, in our homes.

Let us again proclaim it from our pulpits.

Let us continue to repeat it until the whole world has heard.

It Is Not Too Late

Has your church remembered the pastor and other members of the church staff in this Christmas season? They should not be forgotten. These devoted, faithful servants of every church, give themselves tirelessly, and unreservedly throughout the year. Even a small expression of appreciation and love at the Christmas season can mean so much to them. If your church has remembered them, well and good. If not, it still is not too late. Be sure that they are included in this glad, wonderful time.

School Prayers Rejected

(Continued from page 1)

In their appeal to the courts the parents contended that the state could not "deny children attending public schools the opportunity to voluntarily offer a prayer of their own choosing to God while in school."

They contended that such a ban denied their children of the free exercise of religion and of free speech.

In reply the brief for the school authorities argued: "No substantial constitutional question is presented by the petitioners' contention that the 'free exercise of religion' and 'freedom of speech' provisions of the first amendment of the U. S. Constitution require public school authorities to provide daily prayer periods in the public schools."

They further argued: "What the petitioners in effect are seeking to do is to impose religious practices upon the public schools, and to obtain the aid of the state therefore through the use of the public schools and school personnel. This the respondents are constitutionally prohibited from permitting. And even if the respondents could permit it, they would not be required to do so."

It was pointed out in the brief for the school that the practices being demanded by the parents for their children could not be in the category of voluntary free exercise of religion.

Since the specific prayers involved were offered by kindergarten children from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Armenian Apostolic homes, the prayers had to be taught and supervised by the school authorities.

Test Attempted

Although the parents attempted to make this a test of "Free exercise of religion" in public schools, the courts refused to accept it as such. This case does not involve the question of voluntary religious acts by students for which they might be excused.

Dr. Foy Rogers Loses Mother

Mrs. J. D. Rogers, 82, of the Furr's Community, near Pontotoc, mother of Dr. Foy Rogers, of the Baptist Building in Jackson, died Dec. 9.

Funeral services were conducted from the Furr's Baptist Church Dec. 10, led by Rev. Mack Rutledge and assisted by Rev. G. T. Ford.

She was survived by six children, and several grandchildren.

Mrs. Laura Jane Lee, a life long friend, lived with her the past 10 years and helped to care for her in her failing health the last few years.

Clarke Schedules Christmas Broadcasts

J. B. McElroy, of the music department, Clarke College, releases the following schedule of broadcasts of recordings of Christmas music by Clarke singing groups: December 24, WCOG, Meridian, 9:05 P.M.; WGCM, Gulfport, 11:00 P.M. December 25, WDDT, Greenville, P.M.; WMOX, Meridian; WPMP, Pascagoula, 3:00 P.M. (Where time is not given, station had not settled on a time.) WPRN, Butler, Alabama, will carry program, but no day given.

All radio programs will present recording of THE MESSIAH, sung by 80-Voice Chorus of the College.

During the early part of this week Clarke groups have appeared on television (December 21, WLBT, Jackson, Christmas anthems and lighter numbers), and have been heard on radio (December 19 from WONA, Winona; and from WJDX-FM, Jackson; December 20 on WQBC, Vicksburg.)

Service Men Get Greetings From Graham

MONTREAT, N.C. (RN) — Evangelist Billy Graham has sent personal Christmas greetings to American servicemen in Vietnam, declaring that Americans are proud of "what you men are doing to help keep Asian communism from engulfing all of Southeast Asia."

The letter, addressed to 14 servicemen from western North Carolina, expressed regret that Mr. Graham would be unable to visit with them in Vietnam. He said Gen. William E. Westmoreland had invited him to spend Christmas there and he had hoped to do it, but that his health would not permit.

"We are proud of the contribution you are making to help keep your own country free," he said. "I am sure there are times when you get lonely, discouraged and maybe sometimes afraid."

"I want you to know that the thoughts and prayers of millions of your fellow countrymen are with you."

Mr. Graham said, "The newspapers, television and radio keep us informed daily about what is happening there. We are reminded many times a day to pray for you. (We) will ask for a special prayer that the Christ of Christmas will be very close to you as you do your various duties there."

The evangelist reminded the servicemen that God spoke to Joshua when he went into his first battle, declaring: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage."

"While the world is still a long way from the peace that was promised by the angels long ago, yet God's peace can be yours this Christmas as you put your confidence and faith in Him Who is the Prince of Peace," the evangelist wrote. "Wishing you a happy Christmas, I am proudly yours, Billy Graham."

It took 16½ hours to transmit a 99-word message from Queen Victoria to President James Buchanan in 1858 via the first transatlantic cable.

Calendar of Prayer

(This list is not compiled according to birthdays.)

December 27—Grace Hunter, faculty, Carey College; Paul Pryor, administrator, Baptist Hospital.

December 28—Mrs. James B. McElroy, Clarke College faculty; J. B. Parker, chaplain, Baptist Hospital.

December 29—J. E. Rischman, Humphreys association Brotherhood president; Kathleen Wright, Baptist Book Store.

December 30—Carl McGraw, staff, Children's Village; Mrs. Kelly Pyron, WMU vice-president, District 3.

December 31—Harold St. Gemme, Baptist student director, Jackson; Joe Abrams, Baptist Building; January 1—William B. Harbour, Baptist student director, Northwest Junior College; James P. White, faculty, Blue Mountain College.

January 2—W. E. Hardy, Jr. Hinds association Sunday school superintendent; Beverly Bobitt, staff, Mississippi College.

The Baptist Record

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The Baptist Record is a member paper of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the Associated Church Press, and the Evangelical Press Association.

PERSPECTIVE

Robert J. Hastings

A Christmas Prayer For 1965

O God our Father, we are so busy this Christmas of 1965 that (unless we are careful) we will overlook thy gift. We are so rich that (unless we give heed) we will disdain thy gift. We are so self-centered that (unless we unthrust self) we will belittle thy gift.

THOU didst, in the long ago, hide thy Gift in Bethlehem. Only those who were humble, sought it. Only those who were seeking, found it. Only those who were unhurried, saw it.

GRANT that we may rediscover thy Gift this Christmas. That is, may we find Him, and He be found in us. May we praise Him, and his loveliness be mirrored in us. May we serve Him, and his compassion be revealed in us.

AND if — in thy mercy — thou dost choose to grant our wish, every day shall be Christmas and every star an ornament and every breath a psalm of praise to Thee.

Amen.

Handel's 'Messiah' To Be Televised

The sanctuary and chapel choirs of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, will present Handel's "Messiah" on television Christmas Eve. The dramatized treatment of the oratorio will be televised Friday night, December 24, at 10:30 p. m. Central Standard Time. Channel 3 (WLBT), Jackson, and Channel 13, Biloxi, will carry the 60-minute production.

Lee Roy Till, minister of music at the Dallas church, will conduct the "Messiah." The program is produced in cooperation with the Radio-Television of the Southern Baptist Convention, and American Broadcasting Company.

Suit Challenges . . .

(Continued from page 1)
Little Rock Presbyterian Ministerial Association, without dissent, backed the move, stating that the law is "out of harmony with the free spirit of Christian inquiry and the best interests of education in the community."

But the Metropolitan Little Rock Association of Ministers supported the existing law, stating that there is grave "peril to all freedom and liberty inherent in the acceptance of this Satanic theory" (of evolution). Gov. Orval Faubus also opposed repeal of the anti-evolution statute. "The Bible says man was created by God and put on earth. That is good enough for me," he said. As he interpreted the law, he added, it does not prevent teachers from discussing the theory of evolution but only prohibits teaching the theory as a conclusion.

Only two other states—Mississippi and Tennessee—ban teaching about evolution in public schools.

In 1923 the Billing, Wooling and Coaling Society was established at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia for the purpose of introducing young people.



Psalm 67.4 "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy."

Education Seminars Are Set

(Continued from page 1)

each seminar. Those attending the meeting will discuss in detail the problems of Christian higher education and Baptist schools, and report their findings to a BEST findings committee.

A national study conference will be held in Nashville June 13-16, 1966 for about 500 educators as a follow-up to the 24 regional conferences. Similar regional and national conferences are planned in 1967.

Purpose of the regional conferences is to get grass-roots opinions on how to solve the problems facing Baptist higher education, said Herbert C. Gabhart, president of Belmont College here and member of the BEST steering committee.

During the meeting for seminar chairmen, the coordinator for the comprehensive, two-year study program, Doak S. Campbell, outlined what he considered the major crisis facing Baptist schools.

"Perhaps the crisis that first comes to mind relates to the late of financial support," said Campbell, president emeritus of Florida State University in Tallahassee.

"Practically all of our institutions find themselves in some measure of distress in this regard," he remarked.

Campbell said that sources of income are not yielding enough funds to provide "for even a reasonably limited program of instruction." He added that income from Baptist state conventions does not increase as rapidly as the cost of operation increases.

Another crisis is the lack of understanding of the needs of

Baptist institutions, he said.

Campbell said that the Baptist Education Study Task could help in this regard by coming up with a badly needed clear and concise statement of the nature, scope, objective and purpose of Christian higher education.

"There is critical need for exploration of possible better ways of organizing and executing more effective educational programs," he said.

"Critical study and analysis is called for to indicate the extent of the effectiveness of our institutions in meeting the objectives of Christian education," he said. "Just what is the difference between a Baptist college and another college?"

Another Crisis

Another crisis faced by Baptist schools is the critical shortage of competent professional manpower, including faculty and administration, Campbell stated.

"The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said. "Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist in-

stitutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.



Christmas With Missionaries

(Editor's Note: We receive many missionary letters, and it is impossible to publish them all. Out of some Christmas messages received we use the following excerpts as representative.)

Nigeria

Kaduna, Nigeria
December 6, 1965
Christmas... that wonderful season of the year when "peace on earth, goodwill" prevails in human hearts for one brief day at least, Comes to Africa unheralded.

No shining tree... no fantasy of lights... no bow-bedecked gifts... no "stockings all hung by the chimney with care"... Strange customs these, all introduced by foreigners on foreign soil... But still it comes... as poinsettias, great hedges of them, pierce the dusty brown landscape of dry season, their red and green leaves shimmering and dancing in the hot tropical sun.

Still it comes... with the familiar notes of "Silent Night" or "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" sung in the less familiar Hausa or Yoruba or Ibo tongue. Still it comes... quietly on Christmas morning, as the drumming dies away and Christians gather to worship and adore the King of Bethlehem's manger.

Still it comes... not just on this one day, but everyday throughout the year, as the Saviour, born so long ago, is born anew in the pagan heart... and the peace of which the angels sang dispels his fears... and his hope for a life beyond ever-present death becomes a joyous reality in his soul. Then our African brother joins his hand in ours to

gratefully proclaim, "CHRIST, OUR SAVIOUR, IS BORN!"

We wish we might somehow convey to each of you the challenge of Northern Nigeria today, and at the same time help you feel the urgency of reaching the Northerners NOW with the message of Christ.

Recently, our Baptist association sponsored a religious survey in which students from our Baptist Pastors' School went out two by two to scattered bush villages in all directions from Kaduna. For two weeks these forty men, with only a change of clothing, a sleeping mat and a little food money, walked and witnessed. In some villages they were refused permission even to spend the night and were asked not to return. But in many, they were welcomed. In one village, twelve people professed faith in Christ before the pastors moved on. Just the other day, one of their number came to tell us that these twelve have won thirteen more and now they want a pastor to come and live among them and help them develop their new faith.

In another area of the North, a Muslim sought out the Baptist pastor nearest his village, recounted how he had heard the gospel as his wife was receiving treatment at the Kontagora Baptist Hospital and because of what he had heard he wanted to know more. He invited the pastor to visit in his home and not many visits later both he and his wife professed faith in Christ. Now their home is the church in that little village.

The people of Northern Nigeria are being challenged with a faith... the faith of Islam. This religion claims over 800,000 new converts in the North since 1963! But we have THE faith... love through Christ and eternal life in Him, and we must present this message now.

Next week twenty-nine men will graduate from our Pastors' School to join hands with us in helping to meet this need. For this we thank God and find encouragement. But we need your help too!

We need your prayers that we may be more dedicated to the task.

You can help as you respond to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and the Cooperative Program in your church. Some of you can respond by coming to help us. We need you now while the doors of witness are wide open. Tomorrow may be forever too late!

We four wish for each of you a meaningful Christmas and a New Year filled with joy. For every letter and remembrance and for all your prayers we are deeply grateful.

Devotedly,
Betty, Dewey, Elizabeth,
and Mary Ann Merritt

Tanzania

Box 723
Mbeya, Tanzania
Christmas, 1965

Dear Friends and Loved Ones, "It is just like your Christmas", my Hindu friend said, "so you must celebrate it with us." Diwali, the festival of lights, was just two weeks away and Hindus of India, Pakistan, Africa, and all over the world were anticipating the holiday.

For the next two weeks I saw very little of Susila, my African-born Indian friend, for she was busy cleaning, making new curtains, embroidering a new altar cloth for the three gods in their living room shrine, and cooking great amounts of food. Amid all this activity I was surprised one evening to see her arrive at our home, wearing her best silk sari, announcing that she'd come to take me to the temple for prayers.

Sitting on the floor in the temple I carefully tucked the folds of my own sari around my bare feet as is their custom so I would not insult anyone who might see them. I was expected only to watch as the young women danced around the idol in the middle of the floor. Their chanting was almost a song as they beat two long sticks first above their heads and then near the floor. After an hour the rhythm changed from fast to a slow shuffle and died. One of the group produced a tray of grains, decorative bits and pieces of foods and flowers, and a wick coiled and burning in a mound of ghee, or vegetable shortening. The old women joined their daughters and as one slowly moved the tray with its light in a circle before the inanimate idol they all sang their prayer songs. I was very much noticed for white women generally do not wear saris and go to the temple. One woman said, "It is all right, for she is one of us", meaning that I knew their customs, had lived among them, dressed sometimes as they did, and spoke one of their languages. I'd been brought by a friend, so I was accepted as a friend.

My first visitor on Diwali was my friend Susila, delivering a large box of exotic Indian food. I later discovered that it was one of thirty she'd prepared as gifts for her friends. All day in her home guests were welcomed and fed, an offering was made and incense was burned constantly before the idols, and the store's books for the new year were blessed and placed before the idol in dedication and for a hope of a good year. After entertaining us late in the evening, Susila went to the temple at 9:30 p.m. to end her day in her way of prayer.

Like our Christmas? There are many similarities and we could learn much from the unselfish ways they celebrate. But the essence of Christmas is not in the way it is celebrated, but in what it celebrates, and herein lies a great difference. God's own Son was born on this Holy Day and to realize the full meaning of this is to change our lives and our eternities.

Our family is happy to be spending this Christmas in our own home in Africa. We shall think of all of you especially at this family time, and wish for you a deep peace centered in God's love. We ask for you to remember us daily in your prayers, for our work here at the hospital and among our African and Asian friends in greater than we can do alone.

As always, we all join Tiny Tim in saying, "MERRY CHRISTMAS, and may God bless you, every one!"

Love,
Jean & Frank Baugh
David, Barbara & Susan

Mexico

Apartado 638
Torreón, Coah.
Mexico
December 1964

Dear friends:

At this time of the year, we realize the true blessings of understanding the full message of the gift of God. Mexico is a Catholic country, a religious nation, but it is not a Christian one. In Torreón, during the month of December, the main streets are blocked off each Sunday in order to have dances and parades in honor of the patron saint, the Virgin of Guadalupe. After parades and Indian dances, the people participate in pagan festivals all in the name of Christianity. Pray that the Mexican Christians and your missionaries may patiently witness in such a way that the people will experience the true meaning of Christmas.

FMB Adds...

(Continued from page 1)
Expansion Outlook Good
The Foreign Mission Board asked that steps be taken toward the beginning of missionary work in Morocco, Iran, and Turkey "as soon as this proves possible and feasible" and approved the request of the First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Bermuda, for a missionary or missionary associate couple to be sent to serve the church (composed mainly of servicemen and their families) and to minister spiritually to the other people of Bermuda "in such ways as are practicable and feasible."

The decision to expand the Board's work in the Middle East followed reports of Dr. Cauthen and Dr. John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East, who have recently made survey trips to the area. (Dr. Cauthen reported on his trip at the November meeting of the Board.)

Dr. Winston Crawley, secretary for the Orient, has just returned from a trip which took him to all but two of the Orient fields where Southern Baptists have missionaries. In Korea he studied with Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, the Board's medical consultant, plans for the expansion of a Baptist hospital in Pusan.

Dr. Crawley said an outstanding new development in Hong Kong is the Baptist Social Welfare Center being developed by Hong Kong Baptists to meet some of the needs of the multitude of refugees in the colony.

Louisville Pastor Passes Away

LOUISVILLE, Ky., (BP)—W. R. Pettigrew, former first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church here for 19 years, died Dec. 12 following a coronary thrombosis.

Funeral services were held at the church where he had been pastor on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Top Giving...

(Continued from Page 1)
\$3 million; two in Louisiana, and one each in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

In total gifts, four churches in Texas—two in Dallas, one in Houston and in Amarillo—headed the list.

Listed in order by total receipts were the following churches:

CHURCH	TOTAL GIFTS
1 First, Dallas	\$1,588,099
2 First, Amarillo	862,508
3 Park Cities, Dallas	812,565
4 South Main, Houston	761,221
5 Second Ponce De Leon, Atlanta	715,514
6 Mid City, New Orleans	696,524
7 First, Shreveport	628,411
8 First, Tampa	610,714
9 1st, Lubbock (Tex)	586,213
10 First, Atlanta	572,802
11 Southside, Birmingham	568,389
12 First, Tulsa	567,495
13 1st, San Antonio	553,305
14 Bellevue, Memphis	525,953
15 Broadway, Fort Worth	523,209

The seminary family is busy with last minute preparations for the Christmas activities. The choir will present the cantata Friday, December 11; the following week final exams will be given. Friday, December 19, the single students will have a Christmas banquet. We will have them in our home to sing carols and eat Christmas "goodies". Because of lack of funds and because of distances, several will be in the dormitory during the holidays.

Our children are looking forward to breaking pinatas with their Mexican friends. Mary Elizabeth talks constantly of her birthday party with pinatas and cake. Billy and Kathy are worried because the government has prohibited the importation of Christmas trees. We have assured them that there will be a Christmas tree even if it is a whitewashed mesquite (it has no leaves or needles). May this Christmas Season be one in which you will be aware of the presence of Christ in your heart and life—the Christ whose birth we celebrate.

Sincerely,
The Clawsons
William, Kathryn, Billy, Kathy, and Mary
EDITOR'S NOTE: The letter above was written in 1964.

Thursday, December 23, 1965

THE BAPTIST RECORD 9



JUST AS SURELY AS CHRISTMAS FALLS ON DECEMBER 25, the unique craftsmanship of Currier and Ives turns up every year on millions of Christmas cards. "Winter in the Country," the title of this famous Currier and Ives print, has long been a popular illustration for Christmas cards. This print was made in 1864 from a painting by George H. Durrie, a New England artist. (Photo courtesy of Nationwide Mutual Insurance.)

The History Of Christmas Customs

NEW YORK (NAPS)—Christmas is described in song as the season to be merry. It's also a season steeped with rich traditions—some of which evolved from customs practiced before the birth of Christ.

The use of greenery at Christmas, for instance, grew out of ancient Roman and Greek customs. Romans made lavish use of green boughs and garlands to honor Saturn, their god of agriculture. Greeks awarded laurel wreaths to victorious athletes.

Holly was a favorite Roman decoration. The Druids of ancient England thought it sacred. Mistletoe was regarded as a charm against evil in Greek mythology. It was a symbol of hope and peace to the Romans. The Druids believed it had healing powers. The Norse considered it to be sacred and a symbol of love.

It was in heavily-forested northern Europe that the Christmas tree custom was begun by St. Boniface, an eighth century monk. He converted the pagans living in what is now Germany, and ended their human sacrifices to Odin's sacred oak. He convinced the people instead to adorn fir trees in their homes in tribute to the Christ Child.

Although Christ's birthday was celebrated on various dates as early as the third century, its observance wasn't sanctioned officially until a century later. Until then, Church fathers withheld their blessing because they feared the occasion would be tied in with pagan festivals.

Finally, to satisfy growing Christian desire, Pope Julius I authorized an investigation to determine Christ's probable birthdate. This led to the selection of Dec. 25. On that date in 353 A.D., the feast of the Nativity was first observed in Rome.

Exchanging Christmas cards is a fairly recent custom. It began in England in the 1840's—the exact date is in dispute. The first sender also is a source of argument. At least four persons, including a 16-year-old artist, are credited with being first.

Christmas cards were introduced in the U. S. by Louis Prang, a German immigrant who settled in Roxbury, Mass. Known as the "father of the American Christmas card," Prang printed his first one in 1873. By 1881, he was turning out five million yule cards a year.

It was in the 1870's that nostalgic winter scenes by the famed Currier and Ives be-

came highly popular as Christmas card illustrations. Even today Currier and Ives Christmas cards are perennial best sellers, according to greeting card firms. One business organization alone, Nationwide Mutual Insurance of Columbus, Ohio, sends out 200,000 Currier and Ives Christmas cards each year.

The No. 1 Christmas favorite of children, of course, is jolly, old Santa Claus. The original Santa Claus was St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop famous in his lifetime for his great generosity, especially to children.

Legend has it that St. Nicholas secretly tossed bags of gold into the home of three dowry-less girls when they reached marriageable age. On one of these missions, the bag fell into a stocking hung near the chimney to dry, and so began the custom of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve.

"St. Nick," who lived in Asia Minor, became the patron saint of children in several countries, including Greece, Holland, Russia, and Belgium. As his fame spread to Scandinavia, he picked up his reindeer and sleigh.

Santa's rosy cheeks, white beard, and portly frame came from the pen of Dr. Clement Moore of New York who immortalized him in his 1822 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." This poem starts with the famous line, "Twas the night before Christmas..."

Famed cartoonist Thomas Nast popularized Santa Claus even more in 1863 by picturing him in a bright red, fur-trimmed suit.

The use of poinsettias as Christmas decorations isn't old as customs go. Dr. Joel Poinsett of Charleston, S. C., after whom the flower is named, introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1828. In Mexico and Central America, where the flower apparently originated, it was known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

One of the most revered Christmas customs is the reenactment of Christ's birth with a creche, or crib scene. Although started several hundred years earlier, the custom wasn't popularized until the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi.

At that time, there were few books available and most people couldn't read anyway. To give an understanding portrayal of Christmas, St. Francis dramatized the Nativity in 1224 at Greccio, Italy.

Villagers took the parts of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Live animals were used. A life-sized wax figure of the Christ Child was placed in the manger. The living creche attracted large crowds from nearby and distant areas.

And, as the pilgrims stood about admiring the scene, St. Francis led them in joyous songs written in the vernacular. Thus was born another great and popular custom—Christmas caroling.

New York — The world's tallest Bible House—12 stories high—is under construction here for the American Bible Society and will be completed in 1966 for the 150th Anniversary of the Society.



A FLOAT entered in the annual Christmas parade at Piquette, by Westside Baptist Mission of that city, won first place. The float (pictured above) which the judges named most beautiful was a manger scene with the youth of the church serving as the characters. It also featured live animals—a small pony and a calf. The mission, Rev. Bob Pearce, pastor, is sponsored by First Church, Piquette.

PEWS FOR SALE

We are installing new chairs in our sanctuary and will have available for prompt delivery the following pews:

26	11' Long
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These pews are beautiful natural oak and priced to sell.

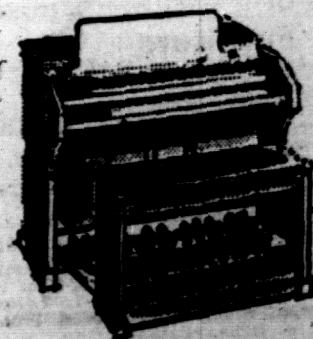
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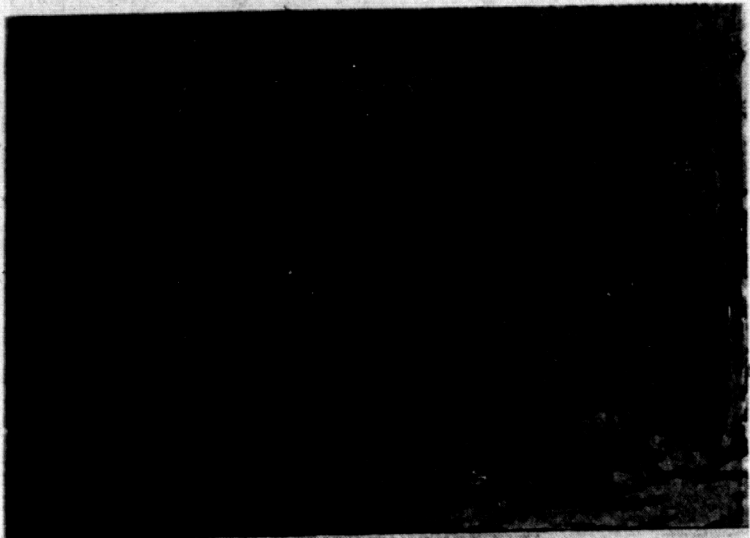
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SCRAPBOOK

Christmas In Particular

By Theodore A. Gill

Christ is the essence of Christmas. Not goodness, or gladness, or love or laughter, but Christ. He is not just one of its charming elements. He is the heart of it. Because the little child is born, we and the world celebrate a day glorifying in it. Not goodness in general, but the goodness of God. Not love in general, but the love of God. Not peace in general, but the peace of God. These we honor, not in the abstract, but in the particular. Because we have seen them, and know them, in the birth of Jesus Christ.



PERENNIAL FAVORITES are Christmas cards with winter scenes like this one by the famed 19th century lithographers, Currier and Ives. This particular scene, entitled "Winter Pastime," was printed in 1870. (Photo courtesy of Nationwide Mutual Insurance.)

FIRST NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By James W. Duke, Pastor, First, Tutwiler

'Twas the night before Christmas all over the earth, God's children were sleeping while Mary gave birth. The world had grown wicked and slept in content, There came but a few to view this event.

I stood on a hillside while watching my sheep; The other two shepherds were lost in their sleep. When up in the heavens a great star broke free And dropped from its orbit and stopped over me.

Its light shone so brightly I stood frozen in fright; It seemed as though God had challenged the night. I called to the others "rise and come here," I feared that the end might be very near.

The star spilled its brilliance over oceans of sand As angels in heaven struck up a great band. When what to our wondering eyes should appear But an angel from heaven with words of good cheer.

Then swifter than eagles there appeared from above A host of God's angels to sing of His love. To God be the glory, and peace to all men: Jehovah thy King hath forgiven all sin.

"Go up to yon city and there in the hay The Son of God is born today." Then away in the heavens the angels were taken And left us alone, bewildered and shaken.

For awhile we stood speechless, then all spoke in haste, "Away to the city—for time goes to waste." And there in a stable with straw for a bed The Savior from heaven lay down His sweet head.

His birth went unnoticed, except for a few; His teachings rejected by Greek, and by Jew. With a crown made of thorns and a cross for a throne He paid for our sins, He paid it alone.

Nativity Quiz

Sometimes familiar passages of Scripture are not as familiar as we think. Following are several common misconceptions mixed in with statements which are entirely accurate. Can you sort them out, underlining the words "True" or "False" according to the nature of the statement?

1. Mary and Joseph were notified by angels of the coming birth of Christ. (True) (False)

2. Joseph was given the responsibility of naming the Child Jesus. (True) (False)

3. The Bible record declares specifically that there were three wise men. (True) (False)

4. Matthew makes it clear that Joseph received word from angels on two occasions. (True) (False)

5. The Luke account tells of the refusal of an innkeeper to take in Mary and Joseph. (True) (False)

6. The actual announcement of the Lord's birth was made to the shepherds by just one angel. (True) (False)

7. There is no specific word that either the one angel or the Heavenly host appeared in the sky. (True) (False)

8. The record concerning the wise men appears in the Gospel of Luke. (True) (False)

(Answers to quiz)

1. True (to Joseph, Matt. 1:20-24; to Mary, Luke 1:26-38) 2. True (to Joseph, Matt. 1:20-24; to Mary, Luke 1:26-38) 3. False (Matt. 2:1-12) 4. True (Luke 2:1-7) 5. False (Matt. 2:1-12) 6. True (Luke 2:1-7) 7. True (Matt. 2:1-12) 8. False (Matt. 2:1-12)

I Heard The Bells...

I heard the bells on Christmas day

Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat

Of peace on earth, good will to men.

—Henry W. Longfellow

His Star

WHERE IS HE that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.—Matthew 2:2

DIVINE STEREO

By James E. Burnett

The finest concert ever given was that which took place not far from Bethlehem over nineteen centuries ago. Those Judean slopes, made incandescent with the glory of God, formed the grandest open-air theater the world has ever known.

The musical reproductions of our greatest stereo would seem halting and forced in comparison to the Palestinian night sky where every quiet breeze vibrated with divine melody.

Their audience: a few roughly dressed shepherds, wide-eyed and frightened from such a performance!

—Watchman-Examiner

The Angel

AND THE ANGEL said unto them, fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.—Luke 2:10

A Song In The Air

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer

And a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire While the beautiful sing, For the manger of Bethlehem Cradles a King!

—Phillips Brooks

Christmas Is...

By Carlton C. Beck

Christmas is a shining star of hope in the sky of all mankind.

Christmas is angelic music in the form of carol and oratorio with a beautiful celestial descent.

Christmas is "Glory to God," Good News to man and "Joy to the World."

Christmas is "peace on earth" for those who accept it and live in accordance with God's will.

Christmas is a gift of love wrapped in human flesh and tied securely with the strong promises of God.

Christmas is a long trek through the desert of man's depravity in order to discover the answer to his soul's need.

Christmas is a man on duty tending sheep or machine who senses the upward call and stops to worship.

Christmas is the warmth of a straw-lined manger or an insulated dwelling where the Christ is given room.

Christmas is an atmosphere enveloping the Holy Family or a family made holy by the presence of the heavenly guest.

Christmas is a tall green tree which serves as a festive altar for any household which discovers the true meaning behind it all.

Christmas is soft candle glow through which moves all the mystery of the incarnation.

Christmas is a ringing bell calling a distraught humanity to gladness and hope.

Christmas is a glowing hearth gently placed in the center of man's loneliness.

Christmas is an altar to which man can bring his

A ten-year project to produce an authoritative up-to-date version of the Greek New Testament, incorporating previously unpublished information, is being completed in Cambridge, England, by a group of international biblical scholars. The new edition will carry the names of five different Bible Societies—the American, the British and Foreign, the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Netherlands Bible Society, and the Württemberg Bible Society.

heartache for comfort, his loss for guidance, his sin for forgiveness.

Christmas is the sparkle of anticipation and the steady light of faith in the eyes of a little child as he hears the Old, Old Story.

Christmas is more than words can tell, for it's a matter for the heart to receive, believe, and understand.

—The Christian



"Inside we've got to use candle-light or we'll blow a fuse!"

DEVOTION

What A Glorious Opportunity!

By Rev. Nat Mayhall, Pastor, Port Gibson

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."—I Cor. 16:9

This is a wonderful time of the year. Christmas observance brings our minds to the happiest thoughts and joyous expressions. The deeper our understanding of the meaning of Christmas the wider is our vision of the blessings which the Lord has shown to us. But we are not reminded only of things passed during these hours, for there is a challenge to face the future with courage and determination.

The new year will arrive very soon. Whatever it has to offer is not far away. We stand with fear and trembling before a doorway to the unknown, wondering what will be behind that door as it opens before us.

Considering the past, we are apprehensive of the future. Yet Paul states the real Christian attitude as he says, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

There is undoubtedly a great opportunity just ahead. Struggling under the burden of past mistakes and shuddering at the possibility of strong adversaries, we face a question. Will we lay our talent and our lives before God to be used in winning others to Christ? This is our choice. The message of Christmas is one of salvation granted to men from the merciful heart of God and worked out through the centuries of time in careful preparation. Its story can bring glory to God and peace on earth. Perhaps as Christ beckons to us to join in this task we can learn from the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Christ had looked at a multitude of people who were hungry and in need. His simple command to the disciples was "Give ye them to eat." This seemed to be an impossible request. Could they meet this challenge? They did not meet it, but Christ took one boy's lunch and fed the entire group. His lesson is so clear. His power is sufficient when our little is given into his hand.

We can expect other miracles today as spiritual needs multiply. The mounting crime rate, the increasing population makes our task seem utterly impossible, but when we dedicate what we have into his hands, he will take that little and supply every need. The vision of success in winning others to Christ will give us courage to face every difficulty and the knowledge of his presence will prepare us for every adversary. As we move toward the close of this year and the beginning of 1966, let us sing in sincerity the song

"Lord, we are able, our spirits are thine, Remold them, make us like Thee, divine: Thy guiding radiance above us shall be A beacon to God, to faith and loyalty."

FOR SALE: Felgemaker pipe organ, 2-manual, electrified console. Available about May 1, 1966. First Presbyterian Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

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Gift Brings Great Light

A physician undertook the sad duty of telling a young father that his baby had lived but an hour or two. He expressed his sympathy as best he could and was about to leave when the father said, "Doctor, I've just read that human eyes are needed for the corneal operation. Could my baby's eyes be used to enable someone to see again?"

The young man signed the necessary papers; the Red Cross motor corps hastened to the hospital and took the baby's eyes, sealed in containers of sterile solution, to the bank. The next day the Red Cross carried the two eyes to two different hospitals.

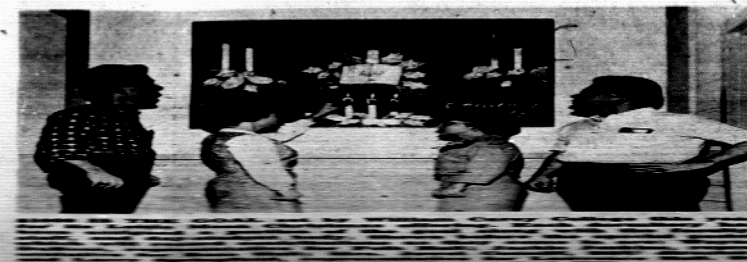
In one operation a corneal graft restored the sight of a working man head of a large family, who was blinded in an industrial accident. In the second, sight was given back to a young mother blinded by a cookstove explosion. Thus two different people were blessed by the thoughtfulness of a young father and the unwitting gift of an infant child, only a few hours in this world.

Far across the world, in Palestine, two thousand years ago another baby was born,

on the first Christmas. He lived more than an hour or two, but He, different from any other child who had ever entered this world, was born in order that He might die. He was born into a world of darkness. Not a few isolated people, blinded by industrial or home accidents, but a whole race, blinded by the entrance of sin, groped in utter darkness.

Long before, He, different from any other child, announced that He would come, and that the people who walked in darkness would see a great light (Isa. 9:2). It was announced that He would open blind eyes (Isa. 42:7). When He came, He Himself said that He had come to give "recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18, 21).—Sunday School Times

Martin Luther couldn't understand how God could put up with man. "If I were God," he said, "and the world had treated me as it has treated him, I would kick the wretched thing to pieces." And I suppose he would have. —J. Wallace Hamilton in SERENDIPITY (Fleming H. Revell Company)



CAROLING AT CHRISTMAS—at windows, at doors, in the streets, on the campus, through the town—this BSU-sponsored event always takes place at Blue Mountain just before students leave for the holidays. Pictured: Angela Forbus, BSU music chairman, center front, directing the singing group; and standing, left to right, Pat Moore, Redonda Stephens, and Janie Martindale.

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